



# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**

**HERALDRY**

**VEXILLOLOGY**

**SOCIAL HISTORY**

**Heritage Matters**

**Book Reviews**

**Open Meetings**

**News & Events**



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## CONTENTS

The English Isles	2
GSI on RnaG	
de Gaulle's Irish Ancestry	2
Genealogy Courses 2014	
James Scannell Reports ..	3
Précis of Dec. Lecture	
Members Discounts	3
Irish DNA Atlas Project	
Prime Ministers visit	4
WWI Graves	
Diary Dates	4
GSI Lecture Programme	
Free Research Advice	4
Historical Accuracy	

## Dialogue on the Future of Irish Genealogy?

The recent hearings by the Oireachtas Joint Committee into 'Developing a Plan to Capture the Full Value of our Genealogical Heritage' have demonstrated the diverse nature of the delivery of genealogical services in Ireland. The commercial, state and voluntary sectors each set out their stalls on how they view the future of Irish genealogy. Although each sector approached the subject differently, the extent of the common ground was refreshing in its enormous potential. Each organisation was requested to submit a detailed written statement and to deliver an opening address to the Oireachtas Committee. Despite the unfortunate reiteration of an erroneous historical narrative by two organisations (see page 4) and the extraordinary claim by the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) to 'represent over 50,000 genealogists', the opening addresses by all of the organisations were excellent. The UK based Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS), which has a worldwide membership and is currently an 'associate member' of CIGO, was baffled by CIGO's claim. The FFHS has confirmed that it has not nor would it ever authorise CIGO to represent it or its members in Ireland. Indeed, it is possible that other 'associate members' of CIGO around the world would take a similar view.

No doubt, all would agree it is essential that only verifiably accurate information is submitted to the Oireachtas Committee and that any errors discovered should be rectified to ensure the accuracy of the public record. However, the initiative by the Oireachtas Committee has highlighted the potential for the establishment of a forum, in which, an on-going dialogue amongst all concerned in Irish genealogy can be facilitated. For example, could the following 'Five Principles' provide a basis for a 'memorandum of understanding' amongst all sectors providing Irish genealogical services? • **PUBLIC OWNERSHIP**—upholding the 'Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access to Our Genealogical Heritage' through the provision of genealogical services by the State, State Agencies, Local Government, County Heritage Centres, private institutions, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations, and the commercial sector. • **PRO-MOTION** of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our genealogical heritage in Ireland and overseas amongst the Irish diaspora and thereby, seeking to create an affinity with the island of Ireland, its heritage, history and culture and as a roots tourism destination. • **PRACTICE**—observing an agreed ethical Code of Practice; committing to maintain *Professional Research Standards and Methodologies*; and to adhere to best practice in client care and service. • **PRESERVATION** - committing to the preserva-

tion and conservation of the documentary record of our genealogical heritage through best practice, advances in technology, digitisation and where appropriate and in the public interest, funded through philanthropy, private sector investment and PPPs. • **PARTNERSHIP** - promoting and supporting the cooperative development of Irish genealogical services, including public policy matters, in partnership with the custodians of the records, commercial service providers, professional genealogists and the voluntary genealogical organisations in Ireland. Under such a 'Compact Uniting Irish Genealogy' (CUIG) the various organisations, corporate bodies and institutions subscribing to the above 'Five Principles' could undertake to establish such mechanisms, as may be required, to enhance their cooperation, including, the convening of an annual forum of the parties to such a compact. The 'compact' is necessarily broad in its approach to facilitate an open and constructive dialogue between the various organisations, some of which are commercial competitors. It is not envisaged that any new organisation would be established under such a 'compact' as it is only a framework to facilitate dialogue on matters of mutual interest. Such a 'compact' could be viewed as a very positive outcome of the work of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the future of Irish genealogy.

## Submission Widely Read, Welcomed and Praised

On Tuesday and Thursday December 10th and 12th 2013, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht interviewed witnesses from various bodies, including this Society, on their written submissions on 'Developing a Plan to Capture the Full Value of our Genealogical Heritage'. This Society's detailed submission to the Committee comprised a 41 page document covering all aspects of Irish genealogy containing around 70 innovative recommendations and, of course, de-

tailed proposals for legislative measures. Following the Society's appearance before this parliamentary committee the Society's written submission was published in the interest of openness and transparency. On-line interest in the document has been phenomenal with a global readership. The innovative and imaginative approach taken by the Society to the question posed by the Committee has been welcomed and praised at home and overseas. The four sessions of interviews conducted by the Committee are available to view on the Oireachtas

website [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie) The Society's delegation that appeared before the Committee on Tuesday December 10th consisted of Tom Conlon, Aidan Feerick and Michael Merrigan. The engagement with the Teachtaí Dála (MPs) and Senators was very encouraging as their knowledge of the subject was impressive. The Committee will now consider the matter and produce a report. As each of the organisations appearing before the Committee made written submissions, hopefully, each will publish their submissions on-line soon.

## The English Isles

*'The English Isles—Cultural transmission and political conflict in Britain and Ireland, 1100-1500'* edited by **Seán Duffy** (TCD) and **Susan Foran** (U Bergen) and recently published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-223-0 : 184pp : h/bk : Price €55.00 / Web Price €49.50) is a fascinating exploration of the impact of the English cultural and military imperialism which shaped the destiny of the islands of Britain and Ireland. In this collection of essays leading medieval scholars discuss the ways in which English and wider European cultural norms were transmitted outwards towards Ireland, Scotland and Wales from the Norman Conquest onwards. This is the period of the emergence of an 'English Empire' as an aggressive, expansionist and, in many respects, a modern enterprise establishing and securing its influence over its neighbours in Britain and across the sea in Ireland. The parallels between the imperial expansion of the nineteenth century and its legacy are striking inasmuch as the military and political control is accompanied by the far more resilient cultural and linguistic imperialism. Indeed, before military control was established over the Scots and the Welsh, it is clear that English influence was extended over the local elites by prestige, equated with a 'civilised' in contrast to the 'barbarism' of the indigenous populations. In Scotland this was evidenced by the linguistic shift from Gaelic to English amongst the lowland nobility aided in no small

measure by intermarriage with their Anglo-Norman English counterparts. Patrick Wadden (Belmont Abbey College) explores the importance of language, rather than place of residence or origin, as a marker of identity in relation to the nomenclature employed by the annalists. Reuben Davies (U Glasgow) looks at the cult of saints in the early Welsh territories as the influence of the Norman conquest and settlements advanced bringing 'new' or 'universal' saints, many of which, replace or coexist with the original Welsh saints. The essay by John Gillingham (LSE) deals with the thorny question of expectations of empire and the ability or otherwise of monarchs to deliver on this 'mission' at various levels of their administrations. Matthew Hammond (U Glasgow) looks at the Scottish experience of Anglo-Norman cultural infiltration, adoption and eventual dominance in terms of 'Europeanization' rather than a narrow 'Anglicisation'. This theme is further explored by Dauvit Broun (U Glasgow) in relation to Scotland's social, legal and cultural convergence with England. Níav Gallagher (TCD) looks at the emergence of national identity amongst the religious establishments as a counterforce to the aspirations of the English imperial project. The cultural and, in many cases, linguistic transformation of the English in Ireland to the 'Anglo-Irish' is the much neglected area explored by Freya Verstraten Veach (U Hull). This chapter is of particular

interest to genealogists as it deals with the nature and frequency of intermarriage between the indigenous Gaelic elites and the 'English'. Katharine Simms (TCD) explores how these various themes are addressed in bardic poetry with reference to foreign apologues. Steve Boardman (U Edinburgh) examines the post-medieval world of the Lordship of the Isles and confronts the perception that it was the least impacted by the emergence of the English imperial project. The contributors have certainly raised many questions about how we have heretofore viewed the emergence of the 'English Isles' project, however, the irony of extensive use of the anachronistic geopolitical term 'British Isles' in this context is unfortunately overlooked. **MM**

### GSi ON RAIDÍÓ NA GAELTACHTA

GSI member **Caitlín Ní Chonghaile** gave an excellent interview with Cearbhall Ó Síocháin on Raidió na Gaeltachta in his very interesting global magazine programme "**Cruinneog**" ("Globe") on Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup> 2014. The interview explored the growing interest in genealogy at home and abroad and it focussed on the Society's unique contribution to the provision of services to genealogical research at An Daonchartlann. Podcast available on [http://www.rte.ie/radio1/podcast/podcast\\_cruinneog.xml](http://www.rte.ie/radio1/podcast/podcast_cruinneog.xml)

## Charles de Gaulle's Irish Ancestry

**'The McCartans of Kinelarty : Charles de Gaulle's Irish Roots'** Authors : **Thérèse Ghesquière-Diéricks** and **Seán McCartan** (Member of the Genealogical Society of Ireland) Translation : Eamon Ó Ciosáin – Ginger Nally (NUI Maynooth) Published October 2013 by Association Kinelarty, La Madeleine, France. Printed in both French and English. When, in 1969, Charles de Gaulle voluntarily left power he sought a location to reminisce. He chose Ireland his McCartan ancestral homeland from whence his branch arrived in France in the early 18th century. Down through the years his ancestors had retained nostalgia about Ireland. On 19th June 1969 he received representatives of different branches of the McCartans in Aras an Uachtaráin, Dublin. This book is the first in-depth study of this fascinating connection between Ireland and France. Seán McCartan un-

dertook to methodically investigate and gather in Ireland, all that concerned this link, and to reveal the hidden past of an ancient Irish clan. Also, the link was made in France, where from generation to generation the memory and documents were carefully preserved by the many of the McCartan descendants, illustrating the continuity of the ties between this old Irish family and Charles de Gaulle. In this book, many of the archival documents from Irish and French sources are examined for the first time. The book also contains a rich collection of the family portraits of the French McCartans descended from John McCartan of Kinelarty (1640-1736) whose son Anthony was the first of the family to settle in France. A4 format. 176 pages, 16 pages of illustrations. **BOOK LAUNCH:** The launch will take place at Alliance Française, 1 Kildare Street, Dublin on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb at 18.30hrs

### MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish, British, Commonwealth, American or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine of these countries? Check out the Medal Society of Ireland on [www.msoid.ie](http://www.msoid.ie)

### CARE FOR YOUR RECORDS

In the course of our research we amass a huge amount of paper and computer records. We love these records, we've worked hard to collect them. Books, photographs, charts, notes, certificates, parish register and census transcripts. Have you made provision for the preservation of your records after you die? Don't let your hard work end up as landfill or your books to be sold off. **PLEASE** make provision in your Will to have them donated to the care of the Society's Archives for future generations of researchers. *Will Your Society Well!!*

## GENEALOGY COURSES 2014

The Weekend Genealogy Courses provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd** will recommence on Sat. Jan. 18th 2014. It is intended to expand these very successful and popular courses to include the many advances in genealogy, heraldry and vexillology. The courses are specially designed to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. Classes are small providing better tuition. Ancestor Network Ltd. provided the Genealogy Advisory Services for the **National Library of Ireland** during the summer. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library and other repositories; the standard principles of genealogy; internet resources; place-names and surnames; re-

searching census, civil, valuation, church and other records. Practical advice will be shared enabling participants to achieve the best results tracing their ancestors. Courses are held at the GSI Archives and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, where the major on-line genealogy resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. Contact John Hamrock on 087 050 5296 or by e-mail on [john.hamrock@ancestor.ie](mailto:john.hamrock@ancestor.ie)

### IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor are available in pdf format to read or to download or to read *free of charge* on the Society's website [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

### IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED

The January 2014 issue (No. 20) of the excellently produced and very popular e-magazine **'Irish Lives Remembered'** is now available to read or to download to your PC, mobile device or tablet absolutely *free of charge* on [www.irishlivesremembered.ie](http://www.irishlivesremembered.ie)

Why not checkout previous issues of this wonderful Genealogy E-magazine on the website above?. The various articles on the resources for researching your ancestors in particular counties provide an exceptionally useful guide for those wishing to further their knowledge of the genealogical, archival and local history resources of these counties.



# James Scannell Reports...

## SEARCH FOR AMERICAN WW2 GI

73 year old Mary O'Brien, a former occupational therapist who lost her legs as a 2 year old child in a tragic farming accident in 1944 on her father's farm outside Fivemiletown, Co Tyrone. She was mangled by a horse-drawn harvester after falling asleep in a corn field. Mary has revealed her lingering hopes of tracing the family of an American GI whose blood saved her life more than 70 years ago. Rushed to hospital in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, her life was saved by a soldier serving with Second World War US troops based nearby who answered the emergency call to donate a rare blood type after she lost both legs below the knee. Mrs. O'Brien and her parents Bernard and Ann McMahon, never discovered his identity. When aged four, she was the first double amputee in Northern Ireland to be fitted with artificial limbs. Mary later worked as an occupational therapist for the NHS for 30 years; won three gold medals for swimming at the Stoke Mandeville games in 1990; became an accomplished painter and for three decades was part of a musical duo with husband John who entertained, sometimes six nights a week, in clubs and pubs. She once dined with Queen Elizabeth II, was awarded the M.B.E. in 1990 and met the Prince of Wales when he visited her home town of Omagh, Co Tyrone, in August 1998 in the immediate aftermath of the Omagh bomb. She

has also been a life-long campaigner for disability rights. Her remarkable life, which also included using her prosthetic limbs to smuggle groceries across the border during the rationing years, has been documented in her book, '*Not A Leg To Stand On*', which has become a Christmas best-seller. Mary still lives in hope that maybe she will get to meet this G.I. or if not him, the members then some of his family. Despite a thorough search for him including the records of the hospital where she was treated she has never managed to discover his identity. Her book is selling as far away as Australia, Canada and the USA so Mary is hopeful that maybe this GI soldier, or his family will come across a copy and then get in touch with her.

## HISTORY OF ARKLOW LIFEBOAT

The 1956 Olympic Games Gold Medallist, Ronnie Delaney, recently formally launched '*To the Banks and Beyond: A History of Arklow Lifeboat Station from 1826 to 2013*' in the Arklow Maritime Museum located in the Bridgewater Centre, Arklow. Written by Arklow local historian, Jim Rees, who has written several books covering various aspects of the town's history, this book is a comprehensive history of the Arklow lifeboat station, the first R.N.L.I. lifeboat station to be established in Ireland. Divided into several sections, the book recalls the various rescues and routine opera-

tions carried out by the Arklow lifeboat as well as providing an informative overview of the work of the brave and dedicated volunteers down through the years. Another section remembers the many characters who have passed through the lifeboat station's door as well as a complete list of the coxswains and mechanics who have served there. Lavishly illustrated with black and white and colour images, some very rare ones were only made available for inclusion in this book. Copies of this book can be obtained from the Arklow lifeboat shop on 0402-32850 or e-mail [arklow@mli.org.uk](mailto:arklow@mli.org.uk)

## 17th ANNUAL GILBERT LECTURE

On Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup> Séamus Ó Maitiú will present the 2014 Gilbert Lecture 'Alleys, annals and anecdotes: a new look at Gilbert's History of Dublin' at 18.00hrs in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Admission free. The text of the 16<sup>th</sup> (2013) Gilbert Lecture given by Maighrhead Ní Mhurchadha, '*Dublin after dark: glimpses of life in an early modern city*' will be launched by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Óisín Quinn. No booking necessary but come early to ensure a place.

**EDITOR:** Many thanks to James Scannell for all of his very fine contributions during the past year to this newsletter. Very much appreciated.

## Précis of the December Lecture

On Tuesday Dec. 10th 2013, members were introduced to a subject that many genealogists simply ignore when transcribing memorial inscriptions. GSI member, **John Nangle**, from Gorey, Co. Wexford, delivered a fascinating lecture on the iconography on the headstones in graveyards around the south east of Ireland. Mr. Nangle explored the wonderful craftsmanship involved in the creation of these funerary monuments and, in particular, the styles, motifs and calligraphy employed. Although some of the stonemasons involved from the mid 18th to the late 19th century, 'signed' their work, evidence points to 'areas of influence' where styles were copied and passed down through several generations of craftsmen. Whether this element of our funerary culture was imported during the relaxation of the Penal Laws in the late 18th century or, in fact, represented a 'rediscovery' of an art form copied from late medieval tombs

in abbeys and churches in the areas is uncertain. Mr. Nangle's research involved extensive field-work mapping and photographing headstones around the southeast. He was part of Jerry Mullin's team that worked on his book on Kilmahue Graveyard outside Gorey, Co. Wexford, which focussed on its unique iconography.

## MEMBERS DISCOUNTS

Members of the Society are entitled to the following discounts on on-line genealogical products. Whilst access to these resources is free to members at *An Daonchartlann*, it is also recommended that members avail of these discounts to have access from their own homes. **Findmypast Ireland** [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) offer a huge 50% discount and the **Irish Newspaper Archives** [www.irishnewspaperarchive.com](http://www.irishnewspaperarchive.com) offer an excellent 25% discount to GSI members. The British based **flatcapsandbonnets.com** provide a 20% discount on their range of DVDs. A system is being put in place to avail of these exclusive discounts directly, in the meantime please contact Barry O'Connor, Director of Membership, on [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie)

## IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT

The Irish DNA Atlas is a collaborative academic research project undertaken by **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), the University of Leicester in the UK and the Society. The main objectives of the project are (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Participants continue to be sought from across the island of Ireland and, indeed, from overseas who can trace each of their eight great-grandparents to the same general area of Ireland. Participants are requested to present a Birth Brief (Pedigree Chart) and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. Participants are sought, male or female, with ancestry from any part of Ireland meeting the criteria regarding the eight great grandparents. Members are asked to assist the project by inviting friends and colleagues to participate. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please don't hesitate to contact Séamus O'Reilly by e-mail on [Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie) Also, check-out the project newsletter on the GSI website.

## GSI MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 7th 2013. It was agreed under **Res: 13/11/1060** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2014 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2014 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household adult member (18 years or over); Membership Certificate [**Res: 11/09/859**]; right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter by e-mail; use of the Society's Archive; monthly meetings/lectures; special prices of up to 50% off selected Society publications; right to register your own assumed Arms or emblems with the Society free of charge; right to have your Club, School or Institutions assumed Arms or emblems registered with the Society free of charge to a maximum of ten registrations; occasional group projects; Members' internet

forum (under construction); genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your research in the GSI Journal. Special Membership concessions on products and services obtained, from time to time, by the Society. The Board also agreed to provide a number of concessionary rates at €20.00 for persons under 25 years of age and persons attending recognised genealogy courses etc. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1st 2014 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honored until their annual renewal date.

**NOTE:** In accordance with **Res: 10/09/785** all Membership Packages fall due for renewal on the anniversary of joining—please check your Membership Certificate. Apply on-line at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) or if you prefer, download the form and send it to **Mr. Billy Saunderson, MGSi**, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. *New Members always welcome!*

## MEMBERSHIP OF GSI BRANCHES

The Board of Directors has set the Annual Subscription rates for membership (associate) of either *Heraldry Ireland* or *Vexillology Ireland* is €20.00 per annum to include a biannual electronic newsletter and the free registration of Arms in respect of *Heraldry Ireland* and of flags or emblems in respect of *Vexillology Ireland*. Members of the following organisations shall be entitled to a 50% reduction in the Annual Subscription to each (i) Genealogical Society of Ireland; (ii) National Maritime Institute of Ireland and (iii) individual members of Clan/Sept Associations registered with Clans of Ireland and, in the case of *Vexillology Ireland*, individual members of the registered member organisations of FIAV—the International Federation of Vexillological Associations which represents fifty similar organisations in around thirty countries. For further details on these new GSI branches see the following websites: [www.heraldryireland.com](http://www.heraldryireland.com) or for *Vexillology Ireland* see: [www.flagsireland.wordpress.com](http://www.flagsireland.wordpress.com)

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*The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann***Board of Directors 2013-2014**

**Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Building Mgr.); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary, Publications & pro tem Archive); **Billy Saunderson** (Finance); **Tom Conlon** (Internet Services); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects & Membership); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme); **John Hamrock** (Education & Social Inclusion); **Eddie Gahan** (Outreach Programme); **Maura Flood** (Digital Archive); and **Tony O'Hara** (Sales & Marketing).

**JOIN ON-LINE**[www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday January 14th &amp; February 11th 2014

**Evening Open Meeting**Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education  
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire  
20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday January 22nd &amp; February 26th 2014

**Morning Open Meeting**Hardy's Bar, Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire  
10.30hrs—12.30hrs

**Contribution €3.00 p.p. Evening & €4.00 p.p. Morning**  
(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

**Prime Ministers visit WW1 Graves**

On Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, MP and An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, TD, made a joint visit to Flanders, Belgium, beginning their two-hour trip at the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines, a memorial to the 50,000 Irish war dead who fought in British uniform in an era of heightened tension within Ireland, where they both laid wreaths, with Mr. Kenny's reading 'In honour of all those who died' in Irish and English. The men visited the former battlefield including the site of the Christmas Day truce football match. After stopping at the grave of Captain William Redmond, MP, a captain in the Royal Irish Regiment who died during the Messines Ridge attack in June 1917. He was the brother of John Redmond, MP, leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party. They laid wreaths at his grave before visiting the village of Wytshaete, where the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) and 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) divisions advanced together in the bloody 1917 Messines Ridge offensive. They then travelled to the Menin Gate in Ypres, which commemorates 185,000 British and Commonwealth war dead, including 100,000 men whose bodies were never recovered, where they met Belgian Prime Minister, Mr. Elio Di Rupo. The visit ended at Tyne Cot cemetery which contains the graves of 12,000 men who died in World War I. While previous Irish prime ministers have visited the Island of Ireland Peace Park, Mr. Kenny was the first to visit Captain Redmond's grave, Wytshaete, Menin Gate and Tyne Cot cemetery. Mr. Cameron said 'Next year's centenary of the start of the First World War will be a time for the whole nation to reflect on the events that saw so many young people of that generation make the ultimate sacrifice. Nearly all of us in Britain have some family connection with that conflict, and it is the many millions of small, personal stories that resonate as loudly for us as the big, world-changing battles and campaigns. As part of that, it is absolutely right that we help communities up and down the country to ensure that their local war memorials are a fitting tribute to the fallen and increase people's understanding of what happened. We simply should not tolerate damaged war graves in our country'. Arriving at the EU summit in Brussels following the event, Taoiseach Enda Kenny reflected, 'The thought crossed my mind standing at the grave of Willie Redmond that that was why we have a European Union and why I'm attending a European Council. It's very striking when you stand there and look at the names of your own country people who fought in what was supposed to be the war to end all wars, and the senseless slaughter that occurred, and to visit the graveyards and see the names. It is very poignant and very powerful'. See: <http://imr.inflandersfields.be> **James Scannell**

**FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*[www.fourcourtpress.ie](http://www.fourcourtpress.ie)**LECTURE PROGRAMME**

The following are the monthly lectures for the next six months. **Tues. Jan. 14th**—'Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire) and the 1913 Lockout—Week by Week' by Charles Callan, MGSI. **Tues. Feb. 11th**—'19th Century Property Tax and Griffith's Valuation' by Aiden Feerick, MGSI, MAPGI. **Tues. Mar. 11th**—'Dublin City Library & Archive as a resource for the family history researcher' by Dr. Máire Kennedy. **Tues. Apr. 8**—'Maritime Matters' by Brian Scott. **Tues. May 13th** 'Technology and genealogy from a layperson's point of view' by Maura Flood, MGSI. **Tues. June 10th**—'Clans of Ireland—a case study of the O'Donnell Clan' by Francis M. O'Donnell. **VENUE: Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education**, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Directions on [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) The programme of monthly lectures is varied to meet the needs of all levels of research experience. **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI Director, GSI Lecture Programme, is always interested to receive feedback on the lecture programme or indeed, suggestions for future lectures. E-mail: Séamus Moriarty on [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

**CAR PARKING AT COLLEGE**

Members are advised that car-parking facilities at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education are very limited, especially during the college terms. Therefore, the Society advises all attending the lectures that the most convenient option is to use public transport. Dublin Bus nos. 7, 7A, 46A and 75 all serve the college or streets adjacent. DART services to Salthill & Monkstown is only a short walk from the college. On street car-parking is usually available in the area also. Members—why not 'car pool' for each month's meeting?

**FREE RESEARCH ADVICE**

*An Daonchartlann*, the Society's Archives and Research Centre located at the historic Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire, is open each Wednesday from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except 4th Weds. open at 13.00hrs) and each Saturday from 14.00hrs to 17.30hrs. Members are on hand to provide **free family history research advice** to visitors. The use of the resources is reserved for GSI members, however, day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable on-line at the GSI website. Resources freely available to GSI members at the facility, as part of their membership package (see page 3), include a number of excellent pay-for-view websites including Ancestry.com, Findmypast and the Irish Newspaper Archives. Travelling to the facility is best by public transport as Dublin Bus and the DART are nearby. Pay-n-display parking is available in the Dún Laoghaire Town and Harbour areas. See: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

**NIALL AND THE IRISH PIRATES**

Genealogy, like Irish mythology and early Irish history provides excellent source material for many creative writers and poets. The Society recently received a copy of Daniel J. Duffield's new novel 'Niall and the Irish Pirates' which draws together his research on the various families descended from Niall Noigiallach (Niall of the Nine Hostages) the early fifth century High King of Ireland. Copies available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS**

by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI

The Society strongly recommends to anyone embarking on their family history quest that one essential piece of kit must be, without doubt, a copy of the latest edition of 'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'. Please checkout the website [www.gillmacmillan.com](http://www.gillmacmillan.com) Price €22.99 [RRP].

**HISTORICAL ACCURACY**

The importance of the accuracy of the historical narrative is understood to be fundamental by genealogists, historians and other researchers. It is no less the case when it comes to the history of the development of genealogical and heraldic services in Ireland over the past twenty-five years or so. However, since mid-2008 certain matters have appeared in print in several publications which have distorted the historical narrative, amongst these are the date of the establishment of the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) and matters concerning the passing of the *Statistics Act, 1993*. Unfortunately these errors were included by two organisations in their recent submissions to the Oireachtas Joint Committee. For the avoidance of any doubt, CIGO was established on **July 9th 1994** at a meeting held in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire and the *Statistics Act* became law on **July 14th 1993**—almost exactly one year earlier. Claiming that CIGO was in existence at the time of the passing of the 1993 Act is factually incorrect. Therefore, any claim that CIGO was involved in the lobbying of senators during the passage of the *Statistics Bill* through Seanad Éireann is a distortion of the historical narrative. Furthermore, claiming that the GRO Users' Group (founded in 1992) 'changed its name' to CIGO in 1994 is similarly untrue. CIGO was an entirely new organisation and indeed, two members of the GRO Users' Group, the IFHS and the IGRS (Ireland Branch), objected to its foundation and both refused to join in 1994. The set of near contemporary articles by several authors on the 'Future of Irish Genealogy' published by 'Irish Roots Magazine' in 1996 and 1997 make for interesting reading on the above. These articles have been posted on the Society website.

**STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

The Society offers a 50% reduction on the standard membership rate for students and young researchers under 25 years of age. Persons taking adult education courses in genealogy can avail of a similar 50% reduction—that's right, for just €20.00. See GSI website.